

Please **OPPOSE** HB 4126

BACKGROUND: HB 4126 would establish a product stewardship program (PSP) for household hazardous waste (HHW). Following a legislative hearing on similar legislation in 2015, Metro hosted a series of stakeholder meetings in 2016 to further evaluate the issue. Many of our groups participated in those meetings, but were unable to achieve an agreement with Metro on how to move forward on this legislation. We outlined our concerns with the PSP proposal in a letter to Metro in June of 2016, but no progress has been made since then to address them.

Our main concerns continue to be that:

- **One size-fits-all does not work.** HB 4126 provides an expansive list of chemicals without the corresponding understanding of what this cost to the state, businesses, and consumers. Instead, we believe this will result in an expensive program with little benefits beyond what the state is or can already do.
- **Proponents have not demonstrated that this legislation can deliver on their goals.** Proponents have not demonstrated that the broad approach outlined in HB 4126 ensures that the system will produce the most cost effective, innovative, efficient and environmentally protective management systems. Any new law should be carefully designed and implemented to ensure that the most cost effective, innovative, efficient and environmentally protective management systems are available for all products.
- **This is an unnecessary burden on Oregon businesses.** Local governments already have the authority to implement programs to improve and increase recycling and waste management programs.
- **We have effective programs.** According to DEQ, in 2013 88% of Oregonians had access to at least one comprehensive HHW service, with 71% having a permanent facility in their county, or access to it. We should not give up on these successes by overhauling the system as proposed in HB 4126, but rather continue to improve on those programs.
- **DEQ, businesses, and waste managers are already directed to reduce hazardous waste.** Businesses already reduce waste through current state and federal laws like the Toxics Use and Hazardous Waste Reduction Act and programs like the paint and electronic recycling programs.

Please join us in opposing HB 4126.

